

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8298

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 7580

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP(KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJ: SECVISIT TEHRAN

REF: STATE SECTO 19021

1. IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFTEL, WE ENDEAVORED TO ASCERTAIN WHAT THE COURT'S PREFERENCES WERE WITH RESPECT TO YOUR VISIT. AFTER CHECKING WITH THE SHAH, COURT GRAND MASTER OF CEREMONIES GHARIB TOLD ME THAT THE SHAH WANTED TO DO WHATEVER YOU WISHED. THE PERSIANS ARE PAST MASTERS AT "ALPHONSE AND GASTON" AND CLEARLY WE HAVE NOW COME FULL CIRCLE. BECAUSE OF AMBASSADOR ZAHEDI'S INTERVENTION IN THIS MATTER, I BELIEVE THAT IS HAS NOW BECOME IMPOSSIBLE FOR US TO GET A CLEAR TRUTHFUL EXPRESSION OF THE CURT'S PREFERENCE. I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST, THEREFORE, THAT WE TELL THE COURT THAT YOU WOULD BE PLEASED TO FOLLOW THE PROGRAM THAT I DISCUSSED WITH MINISTER OF COURT ALAM ON JULY 17 AS REPORTED IN TEHRAN 7246. THIS ENVISAGES YOUR TRAVELING TO RAMSAR OR NOWSHAHR MORNING OF AUGUST 6, AFTER AN OVERNIGHT STAY IN TEHRAN, MEETING WITH THE SHAH AND LUNCHING WITH HIM AND THE EMPRESS THEREAFTER. MRS. KISSINGER, OF COURSE, WILL BE INCLUDED IN THE LUNCH. THE EARLY AFTERNOON COULD BE DEVOTED TO FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THE SHAH IF YOU BOTH FELT THIS WAS DESIRABLE. IN THE LATE AFTERNOON YOU COULD RETURN TO TEHRAN AND POSSIBLY

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CALL ON PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA. THAT EVENING A DINNER

WOULD BE GIVEN IN YOUR HONOR PROBABLY BY YOUR JOINT COMMISSION CO-CHAIRMAN HUSHANG ANSARY. THE FOLLOWING DAY WOULD BE DEVOTED TO JOINT COMMISSION BUSINESS IN TEHRAN--WITH A PLENARY SESSION IN THE MORNING; A LUNCHEON, WHICH I WOULD GIVE; AND A PRIVATE MEETING WITH ANSARY IN THE AFTERNOON; ISSUANCE OF A COMMUNIQUE REGARDING JOINT COMMISSION CONCLUSIONS; AND POSSIBLY A MEETING WITH THE PRESS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ANSARY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE YOU AND MRS. KISSINGER AT A PRIVATE DINNER AT HIS HOME THE EVENING OF AUGUST 7. AT PRESENT YOU ARE SCHEDULED TO LEAVE TEHRAN THE FOLLOWING MORNING.

2. MY FRANK OPINION IS THAT THE IRANIANS WOULD WELCOME SUCH A SCHEDULE AND THE WORKING LEVEL AT LEAST WOULD BE QUITE RELIEVED BECAUSE IT REQUIRES A GREAT DEAL LESS IN THE WAY OF SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS AND DISLOCATION OF IRANIANS WHO ARE OCCUPYING LIMITED HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS AT THE CASPIAN.

3. AS YOU KNOW, I DISCUSSED THE MATTER OF WHERE YOU MIGHT STAY WITH ALAM FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF LOCATION AND SECURITY, AS WELL AS THE NONAVAILABILITY OF THE GUEST HOUSE YOU STAYED IN DURING YOUR LAST VISIT, WE THOUGHT IT WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST IF YOU STAYED AT MY RESIDENCE. IF, HOWEVER, YOU WOULD PREFER TO BE QUEST OF THE GOI, I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE COULD ARRANGE FOR YOU TO STAY AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S GUEST PALACE, WHICH IS DOWNTOWN, HAS BEEN USED BY MANY CHIEFS OF GOVERNMENT, AND IS QUITE SPACIOUS AND COMFORTABLE (CF. PARA 2, TEHRAN 7246).

4. REGRET THE TOING AND FROING ON THIS, WHICH ARISES LARGELY FROM IRANIANS' DESIRE TO BE AS ACCOMMODATING AS POSSIBLE. I WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATIVE OF YOUR DECISION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SO THAT WE CAN GET ON WITH THE BUSINESS OF DETAILED PLANNING.
HELMS

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